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the Russians
are
trying harder...*

To Steal Our SECRETS

B Y T A D S Z U L C

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HE U.S. faces a new Soviet espionage offensive—unprecedented in its sophistication and aggressiveness—aimed at acquiring U.S. strategic high-technology secrets for Moscow's military purposes. Up to now, by all accounts, the Soviets have been remarkably successful.

Rapid U.S. advances in computers and microelectronics have changed the nature of warfare—as well as most aspects of American domestic life. These have triggered stepped-up Soviet efforts to capture this supertechnology, which includes information and equipment related to everything from nuclear missile guidance systems to lasers and satellite communications.

High-technology spying and stealing has become in recent years the top priority for the KGB (Soviet secret police) and the GRU (Soviet military intelligence).

fort, equally large-scale, to buy or procure U.S. technology through legal means, say senior intelligence officials.

Supplementing traditional cloak-and-dagger spying methods, the Soviets have devised ways to plug their own computers into U.S. systems. And they have taken full advantage of our freedom of the press—notably, total access to technical and scientific publications.

A CIA study titled "Soviet Acquisition of Western Technology," issued in April but thus far not made public, reports that Soviet intelligence organizations "have been so successful at acquiring Western technology that the manpower levels they allocate to this effort have advanced . . . to the point where there are now several thousand collection officers at work . . . under various covers ranging from diplomats to journalists to trade officials . . . throughout the world."

The CIA report concludes: "The task of stopping Soviet intelligence operations aimed at Western military and industrial technologies poses a formidable counterintelligence problem." And it adds, "That task is likely to become even more difficult in the future as several trends identified in the 1970s continue into the 1980s."

At stake, of course, is U.S. military superiority on the most sophisticated levels—the advantage, for example, provided by future aircraft computers able to perform a billion simultaneous functions. Yet only within the year has the U.S. government fully awakened to the magnitude of this espionage offensive and, under prodding by the State Department, begun to coordinate defensive actions.

Under "Operation Exodus," U.S. Customs Service agents have made 690 seizures of classified equipment valued at \$53 million (the intrinsic value of this technology was infinitely higher) between Oct. 31, 1981, and Sept. 1, 1982, and the Pentagon and the CIA are urgently training special agents to cope with the problem.

Interviews with U.S. and foreign specialists and the study of technical documents have turned up the following examples, typical of the new Soviet technological espionage—which ranges from superscientific techniques to outright gall:

- In 1981, Soviet experts working covertly from a private research institute near Vienna were able to link their computers to one of the world's most advanced computers—the U.S.-built CRAY-1 at the University of